

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LISBON 05334 111235Z

46

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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O 111207Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4214

S E C R E T LISBON 5334

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS: PFOR, PO

SUBJ: SPINOLA

1. AT THE RISK OF SOUNDING LIKE A BROKEN RECORD, I FEEL OBLIGED TO REGISTER ONCE MORE MY CONCERNS, WHICH ARE FULLY SHARED BY MY NATO COLLEAGUES, ABOUT SPINOLA. IF HE MOVES NOW WITH SOME KIND OF FORCE IN NORTHERN PORTUGAL I GIVE HIM NO CHANCE OF SUCCESS, AND THE PROGRESS MADE TO DATE IN RESTORING SOME BALANCE TO THE PORTUGUESE POLITICAL SCENE WILL BE UNDONE OVERNIGHT. THE COMMUNISTS WILL HAVE A FIELD DAY, AND THE RESPONSIBILITY WILL BE LAID AT OUR DOORSTEP.

2. EQUALLY IMPORTANT SPINOLA'S HIGHLY VISIBLE ACTIVITIES IN PARIS ARE ALMOST AN OBSESSION HERE. THEY PLAY DIRECTLY INTO PCP HANDS AT THIS CRUCIAL MOMENT. THE LATEST PCP PLOY IS TRY TO DISCREDIT THE PPD BY CHARGING IT IS PLOTTING WITH SPINOLA FOR A COUP ATTEMPT. THE MORE ACTIVE SPINOLA BECOMES THE MORE DIFFICULT IT BECOMES FOR THE "MODERATES" TO TRY TO REDUCE THE ROLE OF THE COMMUNISTS IN THE GOP.

3. STRONGLY RECOMMEND WE LET OUR ALLIES, PARTICULARLY FRENCH, SPANISH AND BRAZILIANS KNOW THAT WE DO NOT SUPPORT SPINOLA AND THAT IN OUR VIEW OVERT POLITICAL ACTIVITIES ON HIS PART AT THIS JUNCTURE DAMAGE WESTERN INTERESTS IN PORTUGAL. ALSO RECOMMEND WE LET THE PRESS KNOW THAT USG DOES NOT SUPPORT SPINOLA.

CARLUCCI

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL LEADERS, EXILES, POLITICAL SITUATION, INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchant0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LISBON05334
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X4
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750314-1105
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750962/aaaacdck.tel
Line Count: 60
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchant0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <24 DEC 2003 by buchant0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SPINOLA
TAGS: PFOR, PO, (SPINOLA, ANTONIO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006